

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

COUNTRY East Germany REPORT _____

TOPIC Koethen Airfield 25X1

EVALUATION _____ PLACE OBTAINED _____ 25X1

DATE OF CONT _____

DATE OBTAINED _____ PREPARED 23 December 1954 25X1

REFERENCES _____

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) _____ 25X1

REMARKS _____

This is UNEVALUATED Information 25X1

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1. No air activity was observed at Koethen airfield on 3, 5 and 9 November 1954. Overhauling and repair work was being done on MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s in front of the eastern hangars. The noise of jet engines running on a test stand was heard.¹ 25X1
2. The following air activity and aircraft were observed at the field on 11 and 18 November:

11 November. Between 1300 and 1500, two take-offs were made by MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s. The aircraft landed individually after about 15 minutes. A total of 25 swept-back jet fighters were counted on the landing field and in front of the hangars.

18 November. At 1200, a MiG-15 or U-MiG-15 took off, flew for a short time, then landed and taxied in front of the eastern hangar. Eight individual take-offs were made by swept-back jet fighters. Only one aircraft was aloft at a time. After the landing, all of the aircraft taxied to the eastern hangars. It was noticed that the aircraft at the take-off point, after starting their engines, immediately began taxiing and taking off without running-up their engines. A total of 24 MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s were observed at the field and parked in the following arrangement:

- 7 in front of the northeastern hangar
- 1 in front of the southeastern hangar
- 6 in front of the northwestern hangar
- 10 north of the eastern end of the runway.

_____ were seen.¹

No aircraft dummies

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3. The following radio and radar installations were seen on 11 and 18 November:

11 November. Two radio trucks were parked at the take-off point. The Kniferest-type and Fishnet-type radar sets were observed at their previous locations. The antennas of the sets rotated in a clockwise direction. Two masts about 12 meters high were seen in the revetments in front of the northwestern hangar.

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18 November. A radio truck with a glass cupola and a 2-meter-high rod antenna was seen at the take-off point. The two radio installations with single masts braced by 3 guy wires each which had previously been seen were removed. Two radio installations about 100 meters apart were being established just east of the revetments at the eastern edge of the landing field. A radio truck was parked in the vicinity. The masts were about 12 meters high. No guy wires were seen. The Kniferest-type and Fishnet-type radar sets were still located on the southern edge of the landing field. The antennas apparently did not rotate.

4. No changes were observed on the AA gun emplacement in the southeastern corner of the landing field.
5. A group of about 50 soldiers were engaged in excavating a ditch which began at the flying lane, extended parallel to the fence around the field, and terminated at a point in line with the northeastern hangar.²
6. During the morning of 18 November, two rows of 8 MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s each were seen on the dispersal area at the western end of the runway. Six tank trucks and 2 trucks were parked at the side. Only a few personnel were seen near the aircraft. Three MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s were parked in front of the hangars. On 23, 24 and 26 November, repair work was under way on 3 or 4 swept-back jet fighters in front of the eastern hangars. [redacted] The covering was removed from some aircraft. No air activity was observed.¹
7. No changes were observed on the radar sets in the southern section of the landing field. The umbrella-type antenna previously seen in the southeastern corner of the landing field not far from the new building was removed.
8. Excavation work was being done on a stretch about 200 meters long in the eastern section of the landing field. A group of 12 soldiers supervised by an officer apparently did work on a pipe or cable. Individual bricks were taken out of the ditch, loaded on a truck and trucked away through the gap in the fence at the flying lane.²
9. The four buildings located south of the heating plant in the northeastern corner of the field were still occupied by officers' families.³
10. Recently an increased number of air force officers have been observed in the town.⁴

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1. [redacted] Comment. It is believed that Koethen airfield is still occupied by 1 fighter regiment and 1 reconnaissance regiment equipped with MiG-15s.

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4. [redacted] Comment. An exchange of personnel in the fall was observed at almost all airfields in the Soviet Zone of Germany.

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